Assassination

Norwich Morning Bulletin.

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(From our Extra of Saturday.)

SAD NEWS

The President Assassinated.

War Department,
Washington, April 15.

To Maj. Gen. Dix:

Abraham Lincoln died this morning at twenty-two minutes after seven o'clock.

[Signed.] E. M. Stanton,
Sec'y of War.

War Department,
Washington, April 15—1.10 A. M.

To Maj. Gen. Dix:

The President continues insensible and is sinking.

Secretary Seward remains without change.

Fred. R. Seward's skull is fractured in two places besides a severe cut upon the head.

The attendant is still alive, but helpless.

Major Seward's wound is not dangerous.

It is now ascertained with reasonable certainty that two assassins were engaged in the horrible crime.

Wilkes Booth was the one that shot the President, and the other a companion of his whose name is not known, but whose description is so clear that he can hardly escape.

It appears from a letter found in Booth's trunk that the murder was planned before the fourth of March, but fell through then because the accomplice backed out until Richmond could be heard from.

Booth and his accomplice were at the livery stable at six o'clock last evening, and left there with their horses about ten o'clock, or shortly before that hour.

It would seem that they had for several days been seeking their chance, but for some unknown reason it was not carried into effect until last night.

One of them has evidently made his way to Baltimore, the other has not yet been traced.

[Signed.] E. M. Stanton,
Secretary of War.

Details of the Horrid Affair.

[OFFICIAL.]

War Department,
Washington, April 15, 1865—1.30 A. M.

Maj. Gen. Dix:

This evening at about 9.30 P. M., at Ford's Theatre, the President, while sitting in his private box with Mrs Lincoln, Mrs Harris and Major Rathborn, was shot by an assassin who entered the box and approached behind the President. The assassin then leaped upon the stage brandishing a large dagger or knife, and made his escape in the rear of the theatre. The pistol ball entered the back of the President's head and penetrated nearly through the head. The wound is mortal.

The President has been insensible ever since it was inflicted, and is now dying.

About the same hour, an assassin, whether the same or not is unknown, entered Mr. Seward's apartments, and under pretence of having a prescription, was shown to the Secretary's sick-chamber. The assassin immediately rushed to the bed and inflicted two or three stabs on the throat and two on the face. It is hoped the wounds may not be mortal. My apprehension is that they will prove fatal.

The nurse alarmed Mr Frederick Seward, who was in an adjoining room and hastened to the door of his father's room, where he met the assassin, who inflicted upon him one or more dangerous wounds. The recovery of Frederick Seward is doubtful.

It is not probable that the President will live through the night.

Gen Grant and wife were advertised to be at the theatre, but he started for Burlington.

At six o'clock in the evening a cabinet meeting was held at which Gen. Grant was present. The subject of the state of the country, and the prospect of a speedy peace was discussed. The President was very cheerful and hopeful, and spoke very kindly of General Lee and others of the Confederacy, and of the establishment of government in Virginia.

All the members of the Cabinet except Mr Seward, are now in attendance upon the President. I have seen Mr. Seward, but he and Frederick were both unconscious.

Edwin M. Stanton,
Secretary of War.

Washington, April 14—President Lincoln and wife, with other friends, this evening visited Ford's Theatre for the purpose of witnessing the performance of "Our American Cousin." It was announced in the papers that Gen Grant would also be present, but that gentleman took the late train of cars for New Jersey. The theatre was densely crowded, and everybody seemed delighted with the scene before them.

During the third act, and while there was a temporary pause for one of the actors to enter, a sharp report of a pistol was heard, which merely attracted the attention, but suggested nothing serious, until a man rushed to the front of the President's box, waving a long dagger in his right hand, and exclaiming, "*sic semper tyrannis*," immediately leaped from the box, which was in the second tier, to the stage beneath, and ran across to the opposite side, making his escape amid the bewilderment of the audience from the rear of the theatre, and mounting a horse fled.

The screams of Mrs. Lincoln first disclosed the fact to the audience that the President had been shot, when all present rose to their feet, rushing towards the stage, many exclaiming: "Hang him!" "hang him!"

The excitement was of the wildest possible description, and, of course, there was an abrupt termination of the theatrical performance.

There was a rush toward the President's box, when cries were heard: "Stand back and give him air!"—"Has any one stimulants?"

On a hasty examination it was found that the President had been shot through the head above and back of the temporal bone, and that some of the brain was oozing out.

He was removed to a private house opposite the theatre, and the Surgeon General of the army and other surgeons were sent for to attend to his condition.

On examination of the private box, blood was discovered on the back of the cushioned rocking chair on which the President had been sitting, also on the partitions and on the door. A common single-barreled pocket-pistol was found on the carpet.

A military guard was placed in front of the private residence to which the President had been conveyed. An immense crowd was in front of it, all deeply anxious to learn the condition of the President. It had been previously announced that the wound was mortal, but all hoped otherwise. The shock to the community was terrible.

At midnight, the cabinet, with Messrs. Sumner, Colfax and Farnsworth, Judge Curtis, Gov Oglesby, Gen. Meigs, Col. Hay, and a few personal friends, with Surgeon General Barnes and his immediate assistants, were around his bedside. The President was in a state of syncope, totally insensible and breathing slowly. The blood oozed from the wound at the back of his head. The surgeons exhausted every possible effort of [illegible]

[illegible]

the audience to be disappointed. He went with apparent reluctance, and urged Mr. Colfax to go with him, but that gentleman had made other engagements and with Mr Ashmun, of Massachusetts, bade him good bye.

When the excitement at the theatre was at its wildest height, reports were circulated that Secretary Seward had also been assassinated. On reaching this gentleman's residence, a crowd and military guard were found at the door, and on entering it was ascertained that the reports were based on truth. Everybody was so excited that scarcely an intelligible word could be gathered, but the facts are substantially as follows.

About ten o'clock a man rang the bell. The call having been answered by a colored servant he said he had come from Dr. Verdi, Secretary Seward's family physician, with a prescription, at the same time holding in his hand a small piece of folded paper, and saying in answer to a refusal, that he must see the Secretary, as he was entrusted with particular directions concerning the medicines. He still insisted on going up, although repeatedly informed that no one could enter the chamber. The man pushed the servant aside and walked heavily towards the Secretary's room, and was there met by Mr. Frederick Seward, of whom he demanded to see the Secretary, making the same representation which he did to the servant. What further passed in the way of colloquy is not known, but the man struck him on the head with a billy, severely injuring the skull and felling him almost insensible.

The assassin then rushed into the chamber and attacked Major Seward, Paymaster U S Army, and Mr Hansell, a messenger of the State Department, and two male nurses, disabling them all. He then rushed upon the Secretary who was lying in bed in the same room, and inflicted three stabs in the neck, but severing, it is thought and hoped, no arteries though he bled profusely. The assassin then rushed down stairs, mounted his horse at the door, and rode off before an alarm could be sounded.

It is believed that the injuries of the Secretary are not fatal, nor those of the others, although both the Secretary and Assistant Secretary are very seriously injured.

Secretaries Stanton and Welles and other prominent officers of the government, called at Secretary Seward's house to inquire into his condition, and there heard of the assassination of the President. They then proceeded to the house where he was lying, exhibiting of course intense anxiety and solicitude.

An immense crowd was gathered in front of the President's House and a strong guard was stationed there, many persons evidently supposing he would be brought to his house.

The entire city to-night presents a scene of wild excitement, accompanied by violent expressions of indignation and the profoundest sorrow. Many shed tears.

The attack both at the theatre and at Secretary Seward's house took place at about the same hour—ten o'clock—thus showing a preconcerted plan to assassinate the gentlemen.

The President's Last Hour!

Washington, April 15—11 A. M.—The Star extra says at twenty minutes past seven o'clock the President breathed his last, closing his eyes as if falling to sleep, and his countenance assuming an expression of perfect serenity.

There were no indications of pain and it was not known that he was dead till the gradually decreasing respiration ceased altogether.

Rev Dr Gurley, immediately on its being ascertained that life was extinct, knelt at the bedside and offered an impressive prayer, which was responded to by all present. Dr Gurley then proceeded to the front parlor, where Mrs Lincoln, Capt Robert Lincoln, Mr John Hay, the private secretary and others were waiting, where he again offered a prayer for the consolation of the family.

Surrounding the death-bed of the President were Secretaries Stanton, Welles and Usher, Attorney General Speed, Postmaster General Dennison, M B Field, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Judge Otto, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Gen Halleck, Gen Meigs, Senator Sumner, R F Andrews of New York, Gen Todd of Dacotah, John Hay, Private Secretary, Gov Oglesby of Illinois, Gen Farnsworth, Mrs and Miss Kenny, Miss Harris, Capt Robert Lincoln, son of the President, and Drs E W Abbott, R K Stone, C D Gatch, Neall, Mr Liberman, and Sec'y McCulloch remained with the President until about five o'clock, and Chief Justice Chase, after several hours attendance during the night, returned early this morning.

Immediately after the President's death a cabinet meeting was called by Sec'y Stanton and held in the room in which the corpse lay.

Sec'ys Stanton, Welles and Usher, Postmaster General, and Attorney General Speed were present. The results of the conference are as yet unknown. The above particulars concerning the President's death are from the Extra Evening Star.

Washington, April 15.—The President's body was removed from the private residence opposite Ford's Theatre to the executive mansion, this morning at half-past nine o'clock, in a hearse, wrapped in the American flag. It was escorted by a small squad of cavalry, Gen. Augur, and other military officers following on foot.

A dense crowd accompanied the remains to the White House, where a military guard excluded the crowd, allowing none but persons of distinction and friends of the deceased to enter the premises, Senator Yates and Representative Farnsworth being among the number admitted.

The body is being embalmed, with a view of its removal to Illinois.

Washington, April 15.—The excitement in Washington is intense, and the horrible proceedings of last night are the only theme of conversation.

The assassin of the President left behind him his hat and a spur.

The hat was picked up in the President's box, and has been identified as the one belonging to the suspected man.

The spur was dropped upon the stage, and that also is identified as the one procured at the stable where the same man hired a horse in the evening.

Two gentlemen who went to the Secretary of War to apprise him of the attack on Lincoln, met at the residence of the former a man muffled in a cloak, who, when accosted by them, hastened away.

It had been Stanton's intention to accompany Mr Lincoln to the theatre and occupy the same box, but the press of business prevented.

It therefore seems evident that it was the aim of the plotters to paralyze the country by at once striking down the head, heart and arm of the country.

As soon as the dreadful events were announced in the streets Sup't Richards and assistants set at work to discover the assassin.

In a few minutes by telegraph they had aroused the whole police force of the city.

Mayor Wallack and several members of the City Government were soon on the spot and every precaution was taken to preserve order and quiet.

Every street was patrolled.

At the request of Richards Gen Augur sent horses to mount the police.

Every road leading out of Washington was strongly picketted and every possible avenue of escape thoroughly guarded.

The steamboats about to depart down the Potomac were stopped.

The Chronicle says, as if suspected this [illegible]

[illegible]

His hat was found in the private box and identified by several persons who had seen him within the last two days, and a spur which he dropped by accident after he jumped to the stage, was identified as one of those which he had obtained from the stable where he hired the horse.

This man Booth has played more than once at Ford's Theatre, and is of course acquainted with its exit and entrances and the facility with which he escaped behind the scenes is easily understood.

The person who assassinated Secretary Seward left behind him a slouched hat and an old rusty navy revolver.

The chambers were broken loose from the barrel as it does by striking.

The loads were drawn from the chambers, one being but a rough piece of lead, and the other smaller than the chambers, wrapped in paper as if to keep them from falling out.

War Department,
Provost Marshal General's Bureau,
Washington, April 15, 1865.

It is believed that the assassins of the President and Secretary Seward are attempting to escape to Canada.

You will make a thorough examination of all persons attempting to cross from the United States into Canada, and will arrest all suspicious persons.

The most vigilant scrutiny on your part, and the force at your disposal is demanded.

A description of the parties supposed to be implicated in the murder will be telegraphed you to-day; but, in the meantime, be active in preventing the crossing of any suspicious persons.

By order of the Secretary of War.
N. L. Jeffries,
Brevet Brig. General
and Acting Provost Mar. Gen.

WAR ITEMS.

JOHNSTON'S FORCE BUT 10,000.

Gen. Butler Resigned Last Night.

New York, April 15.—The Tribune's Washington special says General Lee confessed to General Grant that Johnston's entire force would not number more than ten thousand.

Lee surrendered less than eight thousand fighting men to Grant, and less than five thousand muskets.

Grant had 123,000 men under his command.

General Butler this evening wrote his resignation.

The Lesson of this Sad Event.

The dagger of the assassin has hurried a great, good, and wise man into immortality. Abraham Lincoln, our well-beloved, noble-hearted President, is a victim to the foul spirit of treason. To-day we are appalled at the attempt to paralyze the country by this terrible blow at the "head, heart, and arm" of the government. But it is a time for the sternest, most unflinching fortitude. While, therefore, we see our national emblem floating at half-mast in honor and sorrow for the dead and dying, let us learn from the tremendous events which occasion the spectacle, something of the magnitude of the crime of treason. It we mistake not we *shall learn* that the most heaven-daring political crime of all ages deserves *conspicuous* punishment. This is the lesson of the hour.

The Public Grief.—The first news of the assassination of the President was received at the Telegraph office in this city at half past seven A. M. In a short time the news spread to all parts of the town, but its startling import could hardly be realized. When it was positively ascertained that there was no doubt of its truth, a gloomy sadness overspread all countenances. Many shed tears while others demanded vengeance.

At noon the church bells tolled, and the flags on our shipping in the harbor, and all over the city, were hoisted at half mast.

Since four years ago to-day, when the news of the surrender of Fort Sumter was received in Norwich, there has not been such a universal feeling of hatred for traitors, or so strong a desire for just vengeance upon them.

Andrew Johnson, President.—Vice President Johnson having been sworn in as President of the United States, Senator Foster of this city, the President pro tem. of the Senate, becomes acting Vice President of the United States. Senator Foster, who is in town, was deeply affected by President Lincoln's death, he having been on the most intimate personal terms with him.

From North Carolina.

Goldsboro, April 6. The capture of Richmond and great victory of Grant was telegraphed here this morning from Newbern, and the joy and enthusiasm of Sherman's army is beyond description. The Union citizens of Raleigh also celebrated the event in spite of the rebels, who are now powerless to prevent such manifestations of joy which religious say have also been openly displayed in different parts of the State. Here at Newbern, and other points in the department, bells were rung and guns fired.

Gen Carl Schurz has just arrived at Newbern, it is rumored, on his way to Raleigh.

No movement for the return of North Carolina to the Union will probably be made until Raleigh is occupied by our troops, though it is now the general desire of the people throughout the State.

A portion of Gen. Sherman's army was under orders to move prior to the reception of the news that Richmond was captured.

Some curious cattle of African breed, imported by Gen. Wade Hampton, consisting of a bull, cow and calf captured on his plantation near Columbia, S. C., were brought here and delivered up to Geo. Weighe who forwarded them to New York to be placed in Central Park. On the same plantation were captured a band of minstrels consisting of thirteen slaves, among whom are the two White Brothers, all of whom now travel with Gen. Logan, their deliverer. [illegible]

[illegible]

The Seven-thirty Loan.

[illegible]

EXTRA.

Sunday, April 16, 12 O'clock M.

The Murder of the President!

THE ARREST OF THE ASSASSIN NOT CONFIRMED.

Secretary Seward's Condition Critical.

Frederick Seward not Dead but Very Low.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S INAUGURAL.

HIS FUTURE POLICY.

He will Deal Severely with Traitors.

The Rebel Virginia Legislature Forbidden to Assemble.

THE EXTENT OF THE MURDEROUS PLOT.

All Prominent Government Officials Included.

The Plot intended to include all prominent Members of the Administration.

Washington, April 15.—From information in the possession of the authorities, it is evident the scope of the plot was intended to be much more comprehensive. The Vice President and other prominent members of the administration were called upon at their residences by suspicious parties, and their precise localities accurately obtained, but providentially in their cases the scheme miscarried.

A boat was at once sent down the Potomac to notify the gunboats on the river of the awful crime in order that all possible means should be taken for the arrest of the perpetrators. The most ample precautions have been taken, and it is not believed the culprits will long succeed in evading the over-taking arm of justice.

The belief being entertained that a conspiracy of desperadoes has been organized for murder on an extensive scale, various arrests have been made by the police and police justices, and the several cases are undergoing examination.

There is evidence that Secretary Stanton was marked for assassination. On receipt of intelligence at the war department of the attack on the President, two employees were sent to summon the Secretary. Just as they approached his house, a man jumped out from behind a tree box in front of the house and ran away. It is well known to be the custom of the Secretary to go from the Department to his house between nine and twelve P. M. and usually unattended. It is supposed that the assassin intended to shoot him as he entered the house, but failed from the fact that Mr. Stanton remained at home during the evening.

New York, April 15.—The Commercial states, "we have ascertained from a source perfectly reliable that during a conversation yesterday among the members of a Spanish firm in this city, it was stated that on to-day the greatest news would be received that had yet been made known to the public. The fact of the statement was communicated to Gen. Peck this morning by the clerk of the establishment."

Inauguration of Vice President Johnson.

Washington, April 15.—At an early hour this morning, Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War, sent an official communication to Hon. Andrew Johnson, Vice President of the United States, stating that in consequence of the sudden and unexpected death of the Chief Magistrate, his inauguration should take place as soon as possible and requesting him to state the place and hour at which the ceremony should be performed. Mr Johnson immediately replied that it would be agreeable to him to have the proceedings take place at his rooms in the Kirkwood House as soon as the arrangements could be perfected.

Chief Justice Chase was informed of the fact and repaired to the appointed place in company with Secretary McCulloch of the Treasury Department, Attorney General Speed, F. P. Blair, Sr., Hon. Montgomery Blair, Senators Foot of Vt., Ramsey of Min, Yates of Illinois, Stewart of Nevada, Hale of N. H., and Gen Farnsworth of Ill.

At 11 o'clock the oath of office was administered by the Chief Justice of the United States in his usual solemn and impressive manner.

Mr. Johnson received the kind expressions of [illegible]

[illegible]

Mr. Johnson appeared to be in remarkably good health, and has a high realizing sense of the hopes that are centered upon him. His manner was solemn and dignified, and his whole bearing produced a most gratifying impression upon those who participated in the ceremonies.

[OFFICIAL.]

War Department,
Washington, April 15—2 P. M.

To Major General Dix, New York.

Official notice of the death of the late President Abraham Lincoln, was given to the heads of departments this morning; to Andrew Johnson Vice President, upon whom the constitution devolved the office of President.

Mr Johnson, upon receiving this notice, appeared before Hon Salmon P Chase, Chief Justice of the United States, and took the oath of office as President of the United States, and assumed its duties and functions.

At 12 o'clock the President met the heads of departments in cabinet meeting at the Treasury building, and, among other business, the following was transacted.

First—The arrangement of the funeral of the late President were referred to the several Secretaries, as far as relates to their respective departments.

Second—William Hunter, Esq., was appointed Acting Secretary of State during the disability of Mr Seward, and his son, Frederick Seward, the Assistant Secretary.

Third—The President formally announced that he desired to retain the present Secretaries of Departments of his cabinet, and they would go on and discharge their respective duties in the same manner as before the deplorable event that had changed the head of the government.

Edwin M. Stanton,
Sec'y of War.

The Murderer, Booth—Something of his Antecedents.

Boston, April 15.—This forenoon a gentleman stated in Barton's Saloon, No. 41 Congress street, that he had been told by John Wilkes Booth within a few weeks, that he intended to kill the President. Some of his hearers immediately sent word to the police, and two officers immediately proceeded to the saloon and took the person custody.

His name is J. H. Borland, and he belongs to Pittsburg, Penn. He is a dealer in boots and shoes in that city, and was in this city buying goods. We understand that he reports the conversation between Booth and himself to have taken place in Pittsburgh. Borland remains in custody.

Edwin Booth, a brother of the assassin has been playing an engagement at the Boston theatre for the past three weeks, and was to have taken his farewell this afternoon. He has been stopping with a friend in the city. [illegible]

[illegible]

Gen. Grant in Washington.

[illegible]

The Policy of President Lincoln.

[illegible]

Official Announcement to Minister Adams.

[illegible]

Day of Mourning in New York.

Albany, April 15.—Gov. Fenton has issued a proclamation appointing Thursday next as a day of public mourning, instead of thanksgiving.

Circumstances Pointing to the Murderers.

Washington, April 15—Among the circumstances tending to fix a participation in the crime on Booth, were letters found in his trunk, one of which, apparently from a lady, supplicated him to desist from the perilous undertaking in which he was about to embark, as the time was inauspicious, the mine not yet being ready to be sprung.

The Extra Intelligencer says, From the evidence obtained it is rendered highly probable that the man who stabbed Mr. Seward and his sons is John Surratt of Prince George County, Maryland.

The horse he rode was hired at Naylor's stable on Fourteenth street. Surratt is a young man, with light hair and goatee. His father is said to have been Postmaster of Prince George County.

About 11 o'clock last night two men crossed the Anacostia Bridge, one of whom gave his name as Booth and the other as Smith. The latter is believed to be John Surratt.

Last night a riderless horse was found, which has been identified by the proprietor of one of the stables previously mentioned as having been hired from his establishment.

Accounts are conflicting as to whether Booth crossed the bridge on horseback or on foot. But as it is believed that he rode across it, it is presumed that he had exchanged his horse.

The second extra of the Evening Star says Col Ingraham, Provost Marshal of the defences north of the Potomac, is engaged in taking testimony to day, one of which fixes the assassination upon J Wilkes Booth.

Judge Olin, of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, and Justice Miller are also engaged to-day at the police headquarters on Tenth street, in taking the testimony of a large number of witness.

Lieut Tyrell of Col Ingraham's staff, last night proceeded to the National Hotel, where Booth had been stopping, and took possession of his trunk, in which was found a Colonel's military dress coat, two pair of handcuffs, two boxes of cartridges and a package of letters, all of which are now in the possession of the military authorities.

One of these letters, bearing date of Hookstown, Md, speaks of "the mysterious affair in which you are engaged," and urges Booth to proceed to Richmond and ascertain the views of the authorities there upon the subject. The writer endeavors to dissuade Booth from carrying his designs into execution at that time, for the reason that the government had its suspicions aroused. The writer seems to have been implicated with Booth in the mysterious affair referred to, as he informs Booth in the letter that he would prefer to express his views verbally, and then goes on to say he was out of money and had no clothes, and would be compelled to leave home as his family were desirous he should dissolve his connection with Booth. This letter is written on note paper in a small neat hand, and simply bears the signature of "Sam."

No Person allowed to leave Washington.

Washington, April 15th—3 30 P. M.—To-day no one is allowed to leave the city by rail conveyance or on foot, and the issuing of passes from the headquarters of the department at Washington has been suspended by Gen. Augur.

The Condition of Secretary Seward and Sons.

[illegible]

The Arrest of Booth Not Confirmed.

[illegible]

President Lincoln's Funeral.

[illegible]

President Lincoln's Last Cabinet Meeting.

[illegible]

Assembling of the Virginia Legislature Prohibited.

[illegible]

E. O. C. Ord,
Maj. Gen. Commanding.

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